

Exhibit No.

#8

Date

1-12-09

Bill No.

N/A

**Jackson, Lisa Mecklenberg**

**From:** Roy Brown [brown.roy@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 11, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Lisa Mecklenberg  
**Subject:** FW: health industry addressing costs

Please have this available for the rest of the committee  
Thanks

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**From:** Theresa Vonada [mailto:lovehockey@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 9:44 PM  
**To:** BROWN.ROY@BRESNAN.NET  
**Subject:** health industry addressing costs

Mr. Brown,

If you are going to question health care providers on how they are going to lower costs or spend money, I think you better bring attorneys to the table as well. You need to involve all the players in health care. Let's not forget how the legal industry has driven up malpractice insurance. Further, if you want to see how their actions increase direct medical costs why not take a look at some workers compensation cases in the state of Montana. Controlling medical costs will require all players to make a commitment to improve our healthcare system:

1. doctors to use sound principles in determining appropriate medical care, i.e. not ordering an MRI because that is what the patient requested rather than having a strong indication for this procedure based on a clinical exam.
2. insurance providers to be non-profit and not have such strong lobbying power over elected officials
3. the use of generic drugs and let the consumer pay for brand only out of their pocket
4. attorneys to be prudent in cases they accept, caps on settlements, losing attorneys to pay all legal defense costs
5. one nationwide medical record system and get rid of HIPPA, all it does it create an administrative system of "security specialists" who have never provided direct patient care.

I have been telling elected officials to look at the VA system. It works. I know I am a medical provider in this system and also a tax paying consumer who has to use our broken private healthcare system.

Good luck in your efforts to improve Montana's healthcare system. Thank you for your time.

Theresa Vonada  
Physician Assistant

1/12/2009